18: Jackson, A-4,5 (1969) 1972 NO6 Comanche NO6
Oklahoma

THE JARED SITE: A COMANCHE BURIAL AT FORT SILL, OKLAHOMA

by

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ABSTRACT

A late 19th century ravine burial from Southwest Oklahoma is described. The site is compared with historic and anthropological records to document a nineteenth century Comanche burial practice.

INTRODUCTION

122 In November 1969, the Institute of the Great Plains (then the Museum of the Great Plains) and the U. S. Army Museum at Fort Sill sponsored the excavation of an historic burial on the
122 military reservation. Hallett H. Hammett,
114 Director of Research at the Institute, provided all equipment and materials and contributed substantially to the excavation and interpretation of
114 the site. Since I was in the Army at the time, I represented the U. S. Army Museum at the request of the director of the Museum, Gillett Griswold. We were aided by James Marler, retired Assistant Director of the U. S. Army Museum, and by Dr. Clyde C. Snow, Chief of the Physical Anthropology Section at the Federal Aviation Administration's Civil Areomedical Institute in Oklahoma City, who examined the skeletal material and who has kindly allowed me to incorporate his findings in this report. Chris Wagner contributed the art work.

121 The burial offers an unusual opportunity for archaeological documentation of one form of mortuary practice of the Southern Plains tribes. Although numerous other forms of burials -- cave, open field, crevice -- have been documented, there has previously been no archaeological validation of ravine burials reported in 19th century literature and recent anthropological treatises. It is hoped that the addition of archaeological evidence to reported findings may help make further identification of similar practices in this area more precise.

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THE SITE

172 The Jared Site (34CM221) is located in the
131 bottom of a deep ravine about one-half mile
west-northwest of the summit of Medicine Bluff
Number Four at 98° 25' 31" west and 34° 41'
172 18" north (Fig. 1). The ravine is a branch of a
small unnamed intermittent stream that empties
into Medicine Creek. Erosion has cut through
clay soils into fine conglomerate bedrock, leaving
many boulders and gravel in the bed and sides of
the ravine. The area is a highly dissected upland
now covered with oaks, cacti, and short grasses.

The grave was located in the bed of the ravine against the south bank in a triangular area framed by three large boulders. The body was covered with large flat stones, probably gathered from the immediate area. When we first saw the burial, soil that had long ago slumped from the bank was covering most of the stones. Immediately above the skeleton and among the stones was soil
[114] that had been deposited by the stream. Erosion had recently exposed a portion of the skull, leading to its discovery by an alert zoology student, Jon Nickles.

126 Before excavating, we set up a mapping
172 station and two datum points in an east-west line on the south bank. All finds were triangulated from these points. We then exposed and mapped the stones covering the grave (Fig. 2). The stones were removed, and the area was troweled and brushed. Everything was left *in situ* until the entire site was open to view (Fig. 3).

172 With the possible exception of the removal of large stones, there had been no preparation of the grave site. A black rubber-coated cloth, probably part of a poncho or light tarpaulin, had been spread out and the body laid upon it with the right side down, head to the west, facing south. The hands had been placed in front of the

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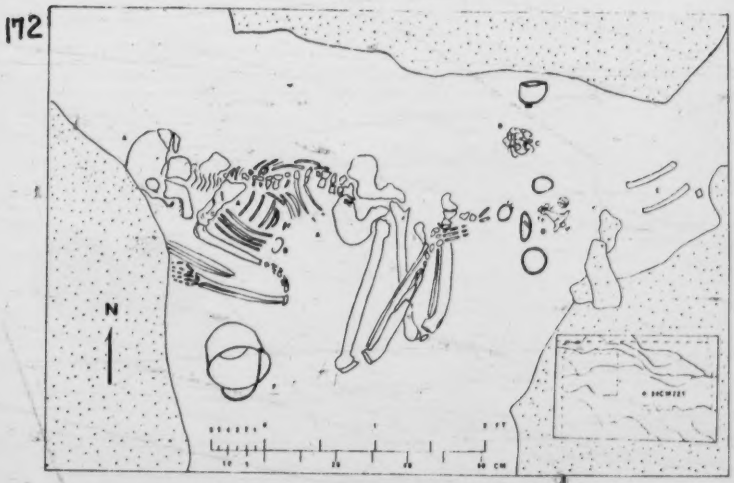

Figure 1. Plan of 34CM221. *a*, rubber coated cloth; *b*, bracelets; *c*, beaded bag; *d*, saddle parts; *e*, iron straps; *f*, pail.

Figure 2. View of the grave with the stone cover exposed.

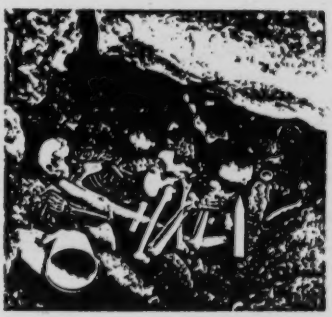

Figure 3. View of the grave with the stone cover removed.

face, the right hand palm up, fingers curled, the left hand palm down, fingers extended. The upper part of the legs had been brought up to approximately a right angle with the body, with the lower part of the legs tucked back toward the hips. Soil movements, the weight of overlying stones, and a tree root had caused considerable displacement of the bones. The left humerus was shattered just above the proximal end, having been pressed against a stone by a tree root. The left radius and ulna had been moved up vertically two to four centimeters by the same root. The left ribs had collapsed into the thoracic region; the vertebrae had separated in the lumbar and thoracic regions; and the right ribs had broken as the thorax and shoulder girdle collapsed. The left tibia was shattered near the distal end, and both legs had been raised vertically some 5 cm. by the tree root. A galvanized pail had been placed upright in front of the chest (Fig. 4). A saddle and a beaded bag containing 52 brass wire bracelets had been placed below (upstream from) and behind the feet. In front of the body near the base of the sternum was one brass wire bracelet, which may have been on the left arm above the elbow at the time of burial and may have become displaced by the action of the root that grew through the burial and crushed the humerus against an overlying stone. Two partial iron hoops or straps were found east of (upstream from) the saddle parts.

THE SKELETON

This section draws freely from and with grateful acknowledgment to the work of Dr. Clyde Snow.

Only one investigator has reported in detail on the anthropometry of the Southern Plains tribes: Goldstein worked with the Comanches in 1931 and concluded at the time of his research that only ten percent of the adults could be considered full-blood Comanches (Goldstein 1934:290). The measurements and indices made by Dr. Snow closely agree with the data presented by Goldstein. In Table 1, Dr. Snow lists the skeletal measurements and descriptions. It should be noted that cranial capacity was derived using the Lee-Pearson formula (Lee and Pearson 1901). In addition to the measurements and indices obtained from the skeleton, Dr. Snow has prepared a table summarizing the data as traits indicative of sex, race, and cultural status. Table 2 thus shows at a glance some important characteristics of this skeleton.

[See p. 320-B—Analyst.]

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Figure 4. Galvanized pail from 34CM221.

172 141 128 *Sex:* Table 2 shows the morphological and metric traits diagnostic of sex. Both the pelvis and the skull are typically female. A more objective assessment of sex is obtained with the discriminant function formula of Giles and Elliot (1963). The value derived from the formula, 899.02, lies on the "female" side of the sectioning point of 912.14 for American Indian crania.

172 144 [141] [128] *Race:* Table 2 indicates a predominately Mongoloid racial affinity. The Giles-Elliot discriminant analysis for race (1962) would classify the skull as "indeterminate" but with rather less likelihood of being white than Negro or American Indian. A possible explanation for the "indeterminate" status of the skull lies in the fact that Southern Plains tribes have long been active in assimilating non-Indian captives into their breeding populations.

172 141 128 *Age:* Since the symphyseal facets of the pubis were largely destroyed, cranial suture were relied on for age. The mean for 16-segment closure ratings is 1.09 (Nemerski, Harsanyi, and Ascadi: 1960:95), indicating an age of 25-35 years. This estimate is partly supported by the minimal osteo-arthritic lipping of the lumbar vertebrae,

[TEXT CONTINUED ON PAGE 320-A]
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TABLE 1

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141 SKELETAL MEASUREMENTS AND DESCRIPTION

SKULL	Millimeters or degrees
Cranium	
Maximum length	179
Maximum breadth	140
Basion-bregmatic height	124
Minimum frontal diameter	89
Bizygomatic breadth (estimate)	131
Prosthion-nasion length	66
Nasal height	51
Nasal breadth	26
Orbital height	36
Orbital breadth	39
Basion-nasion length	96
Basion-prosthion length	91
Foramen magnum length	36
Bimaxillary breadth (M2)	63
Cranial thickness (parietal)	5
Palate length	38
Palate breadth	41
Arch length	48
Facial angle	85°
Subnasal angle	75°
Biorbital breadth	98
Nasion protrusion	14
Bizygomaxillary breadth	97
Auricular head height	104
Mandible	
Total length	109
Bicondylar breadth	123
Bigonial breadth	94
Mandibular angle	119°
Ramus height	59
Ramus breadth	32
Symphyseal angle	70°
Body height	
M2	27
PM 1-2	29
Symphyseal	28
Body thickness	
M2	13
PM 1-2	11
Symphyseal	12

Cranial and Mandibular Indices and Derived Measurements

Index or Measurement	Value	Classification
Cranial index	78.2	Mesocranial
Mean height index	77.8	Low skull
Upper facial index	51.1	Mesene
Transverse facial index	93.5	Phenozygene
Transverse frontal index	80.1	Divergent
Fronto-parietal index	63.5	Sthenometopic
Fronto-zygomatic index	67.9	—
Orbital index	92.3	Hypsicouch
Nasal index	50.9	Mesorrhine
Palatal index	107.8	Brachystaphyline
Alveolar arch index	131.2	Brachyuranic

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Flower's index	94.7	Orthognathic
Facial flattening	14.4	Flat
Upper facial angle	75°	Orthognathic
Subnasal angle	75°	Mesognathic
Index of robustness (PM1-2)	37.9	—
Cranial capacity	1297± cc.	—
Mandibular index	88.5	Mesognathic
Fronto-gonic index	105.6	—
Gonio-condylar index	76.4	—
Ramus index	54.2	—

Descriptive Characters

Vault (vertical)	Ovoid
Inion	0
Nuchal lines	Slight
Dental arch	Parabolic
Palatine torus	Absent
Metopic suture	Closed
Mandibular torus	Absent
Nasal margin	Fossicula
Vault contour (sagittal)	Platycranic
Mastoid process	Small
Pterion	"H" type
Supraorbital ridges	Slight
Vault sutures	Simple
Suture closure (mean of 16 segment closure ratings)	1.09
Chignon	Moderate

POST-CRANIAL SKELETON

Clavicle - not measured
Scapula - not measured
Vertebrae and sacrum - not measured

Innominates		
Coxal height	—	196
Iliac breadth	147	146
Iliac height (cotyloid)	—	122
Ischial length	—	87
Pubic length	—	—
Sciatic notch angle	76°	77°
Sciatic notch width	—	48
Sciatic notch depth	—	27
Cotylo-sciatic breadth	32	32
Cotylo-sciatic index	—	—
Coxal breadth index	—	119.7
Iliac breadth index	—	74.5
Ischio-pubic index	—	—
Apertural index	—	56.2
Humerus		
Maximum length	300	302
Maximum diameter	19.6	20.4
Minimum diameter	15	15.1
Head diameter, vertical	43	42
Head diameter, horizontal	40	40
Bicondylar diameter	—	—
Supracondylar foramen breadth	10	—
Radius		
Maximum length	216	220
Ulna		
Maximum length	246	239

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Table 1 (continued)

Transverse diameter	18	18
Anterior-posterior diameter	21	21
Femur		
Maximum length	415	—
Physiological length	409	—
Transverse diameter	26	—
AP diameter	27	—
Subtrochanteric diameter, AP	25	—
Subtrochanteric diameter, transverse	30	—
Head diameter, vertical	45	—
Head diameter, horizontal	46	—
Bicondylar diameter (estimate)	73	—
Collo-diaphyseal angle	137°	—
Tibia		
Maximum length	322	318
AP diameter (nutrient foramen)	32	30
Transverse diameter (nutrient foramen)	22	21
Bicondylar diameter	—	70
Fibula		
Maximum length	318	—

Long bone indices	Value	Class
Diaphyseal index, humerus	75.2	Platybrachic
Brachial index (humerus/radius)	72.4	Short
Platolenean index, ulna	85.7	Urolenean
Index of robustness, femur	13	Average
Pilasteric index, femur	103.8	Weak
Platymeric index, femur	83.3	Platymeric
Tibio-femoral index	78.7	—
Cnemial index	69.4	Mesocnemic
Humero-femoral index	73.3	—
Intermembral index	70	Average

the general texture of the bones, and the relatively unworn second and third molars.

Stature: Since there are no reliable estimates for determining female Mongoloid stature, the Trotter-Gleser table (Trotter and Gleser 1952, Table 13) for white females was used. Thirteen calculations were made; the results range from 152.78 cm. to 162.80 cm., averaging 157.31 cm. Since Mongoloids have rather shorter legs relative to trunk height than do whites, this average may be an underestimate by two to five centimeters. Goldstein (1934:299) reported an average stature of 156.1 cm. for 25 full-blood Comanche females measured in 1931. Since Indians of mixed blood almost always exhibit maximum dimensions greater than full-bloods, the skeleton would fit into the range of variation expected for either the full-blood or the mixed blood population.

Cultural status: The heavy dental attrition indi-

[p. 320-A]

TABLE 2
TRAITS INDICATIVE OF
SEX, RACE, AND CULTURE STATUS

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Trait	Sex		Culture		Race		
			Primitive	Modern	Negroid	Caucasoid	Mongoloid
Skull and Mandible							
Mesocrany		+	+			+	+
Low Skull		+	+				
Cranial Capacity		+					
Chanfrin							+
Metopism							+
Phenotrygonion			+				+
Sphenomethopia					+		+
Frontoparietal Index					+		+
Metopic Suture		+					+
Mesosemic							+
Brachystaphylinx							+
Brachycrany						+	+
Orthognathy (Upper Face)		+				+	+
Mesognathy (Alveolar)		+					+
Facial Flatness							+
Nuchal Crests		+					
Mastoid Processes		+					
Supra-orbital Ridges		+					
Arch Form						+	+
Molar Form							+
Premaxil[illegible]							+
Dental Wear			+				
Shovel-shaped Incisors							+
Edge-to-Edge Bite			+				
Mandibular Index					+	+	
Fronto-gonic Index			+				
Genio-Condylar Index						+	+
Ramus Index							+
Gonial Angle		+					+
Symphyseal Angle							+
Simple Sutures					+		+
Post-Cranial							
Humeral Head Diameter		+					
Platybrachia							+
Supracondylar Foramen Breadth		+					+
Brachial Index						+	
Ulnotrochy		+					+
Ilnic Breadth Index		+					
Sciatic Notch Angle		+					
Acetabular Index		+					
Preauricular Sulcus		+					
Bicondylar Diameter Femur		+					
Index of Robustness							+
Platymeric Index		+				+	
Platymeria		+	+			+	
Mesocnemia		+					+
Squatting Facets			+				

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141 cates a coarse diet with much gritty contamination. This wear is relatively greater in the anterior dental arcade, indicating some use of the teeth in preparing hides, cordage, etc. At least one tibia shows the presence of squatters facet, and the femurs are platymeric. Both conditions are indicative of primitive living.

Conclusions: The osteological evidence thus indicates an adult female Plains Indian, 25-35 years old, who lived at a time before acculturative shifts in diet would reduce tooth wear. Although
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144 the observations fit the data given by Goldstein (1934), it is not possible to assign the skeleton definitely to the Comanche because of the limited sample on which the comparison was based.

[p. 320-B]

ARTIFACTS

172 [128] The upper case letter preceding each unit can be used to locate that unit in Figure 1.

(A) The body had been placed on part of a black rubber-coated cloth tarpaulin or poncho, possibly of U.S. Army issue. Among the small pieces that remained of the poncho were five circular brass grommets with five-millimeter openings and several pieces of finished edge showing machine stitching.

(B) Of the fifty-three brass wire bracelets found, one was in front of the chest, and 52 were in the remnants of a beaded skin bag near the saddle parts at the foot of the grave. Viewed in cross section, two of the bracelets are round and 51 have flattened sides. The bracelets were made from lengths of brass wire, cut with a chisel, most of them with the ends smoothed by filing. Two of the parallel-sided bracelets are decorated with chisel cuts on their top surfaces (Fig. 5*f-g*). The bracelets range in diameter from 1.7 mm. to 2.8 mm., averaging 2.3 mm.

172 171 Bracelets similar in diameter and design were found at the White site (Suhm 1962:94-7 and Fig. 2), a mid-to late-19th century child's grave of assumed Comanche affiliation in Yoakum County, Texas. Similarly decorated brass wire bracelets of a larger diameter were found at the W. H. Watson site (Ray and Jelks 1964:135-7 and Fig. 5) in Fisher County, Texas. The authors reported a crevice burial of a woman in a standing position and interpreted the site as a Comanche grave dating before 1840.

172 (C) Two small fragments of skin from the bag were preserved under the bracelets. Also preserved were two small patches of the beaded design originally made up of at least 1,857 beads. All of the beads are of the simple cylindrical "seed bead" type. Colors present are opaque white, blue, and green; and translucent turquoise, light blue, dark blue, red, and amber. Lengths of the beads range from 1.5 mm. to 2.5 mm., diameters from 2.1 mm. to 3.1 mm. The amber beads are slightly smaller than the other beads, and the light and dark translucent blue beads have thinner walls than the other beads.

[171] A broken shell hair pipe bead, probably *Strombus gigas*, was among the bracelets. This bead, whose broken end had been smoothed, may have been threaded on a drawstring of the bag, as is the case with two hair pipe beads on a Kiowa bag illustrated by Ewers (1957, Plate 29).

(D) While none of the wooden frame or leather covering remained, the nature of the

A [See p. 317--Analyst.]

172 metal materials found near the feet of the skeleton leave no doubt that a saddle had been placed in the grave. One stirrup (Fig. 5a) is a heart-shaped side-saddle stirrup; the other (Fig. 5b) is of a form common to western style saddles; both are iron. Both stirrups have identical roller buckles, 35 mm. by 44 mm., of the form frequently seen on horse trappings. Completing the inventory of saddle parts and decorations are two iron rings 59 mm. in diameter, a round buckle and cinch ring both 91 mm. in diameter, 13 small iron nails, two copper rivets with leather preserved in them (Fig. 5d), two iron snaps or buttons, and one copper button
172 face or rosette (Fig. 5c). Identical rivets were
171 found at the White site (Suhm 1962:109 and Fig. 6). Rosettes or button faces of similar size and construction were found in the crevice burial of an adult male in Yellowhouse Canyon, Lubbock County, Texas (Newcomb 1955, Plate 25), that included a bridle and saddle bags, and at Fielder Canyon Cave in Val Verde County, Texas (Kirkland 1942:64-5 and Plate 15). Kirkland reported a quantity of trade artifacts strewn in front of the small cave and interpreted the site as a "garment factory." It seems apparent, however, that the site was actually an historic Indian burial that had been looted, which left the artifacts scattered

172 The remains of the saddle leave two possibilities as to its nature: either the saddle was a single rig western style saddle that had one of the stirrups replaced with a side-saddle stirrup, or it was a native-made saddle that incorporated a number of pieces of white man's hardware. The matched items of hardware -- stirrup buckles, cinch ring and buckle, rings, and the rivets -- seem indicative of a white-made western saddle.
[127] Examination of the collections of 19th century Indian photographs at the U. S. Army (Fort Sill) Museum and of the standard sets of Smithsonian Institution prints of Southern Plains tribes showed that almost all saddles pictured were military or western stock types. Of course, the Indians of the area continued to make and use their own saddles during the late-19th century; for example, it is known that in 1868 a Comanche saddle and in 1891 an unspecified number of Kiowa saddles were collected for the National Museum
[439] (Ewers 1955:90). During that period, however, Plains Indians often obtained as many saddle parts as they could from the whites (Ewers 1955:94n).

(E) Two iron straps 219 mm. and 194 mm.

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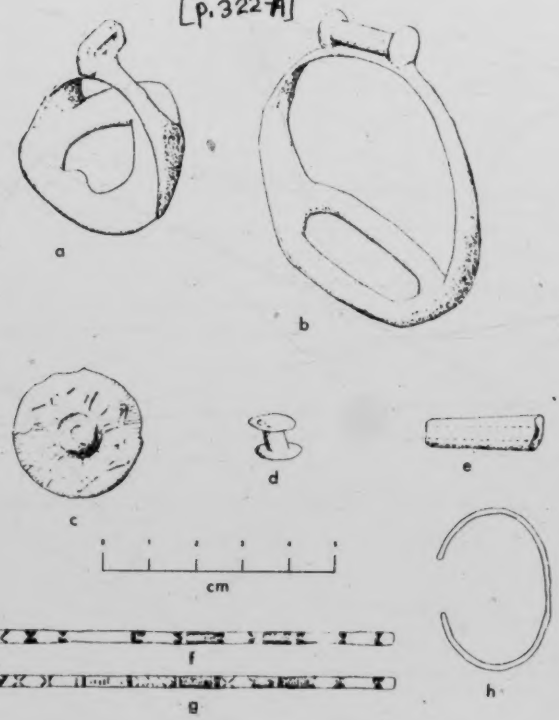

Figure 5. Artifacts from 34CM221. *a-b*, stirrups; *c*, rosette; *d*, rivet; *e*, hair pipe bead; *f-g*, bracelets; *h*, side view of bracelet. Stirrups are approximately 3/8 actual size. Top views of bracelets are 1/2 actual length, side view of bracelets is 1/2 actual size. The rosette, rivet, and hair pipe bead are actual size.

172 long were lying parallel to one another 60 centimeters east of (upstream from) the skeleton's feet. These straps are badly corroded, and the ends are irregular ; hence their original length is unknown. They are slightly curved in cross section from end to end, are 20 mm. wide, and appear to have been about 1.5 mm. thick. Although their purpose is unknown, they were possibly hoops on a barrel or other circular wooden container; they may have been used in making ornaments. At Fielder Canyon Cave, Kirkland found several fragments of flat hoop iron of approximately the same width as the straps from the Jared site, along with some iron tinklers and trapazoidal ornaments cut from the iron straps (Kirkland 1942:62 and Plate 15). These trapazoidal pieces may be unfinished tinklers.

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[p. 322-B]

172 (F) In a near upright position in front (south) of the skeleton was a one-gallon galvanized pail 18 cm. high (Fig. 4). The diameter of the base is 17.5 cm., and the diameter of the mouth is 20.86 cm. The side seam is lapped and folded; the edge of the bottom overlaps the outer surface of the sides and is soldered to them. The attachments for the bail are secured by two iron rivets each. The bail is iron wire 6 mm. in diameter. The lip of the bucket is formed by rolling the top of the sides outward and crimping it over an iron wire; the resultant lip is 5 mm. thick.

The pail seems to predate forms common in the 1880's. In pictures and specimens that I have seen from the 1880's the bail attachment and the bottom are already quite different -- the ends of the bail are looped around a hoop at the top of opposite sides of the pails. The bottoms are inset and the edges are bent around the lower edge of the sides, in the same manner as modern galvanized pails (compare with Fig. 4).

Conclusions: The beads and bracelets have a long history in the Southern Plains. The pail, vulcanized cloth, and stirrups probably date from the latter half of the 19th century. It is not presently possible to assign a more specific date to these items.

ETHNOGRAPHIC COMPARISONS AND CONCLUSIONS

127 *Tribal identification:* Specific information on burial practices of the Southern Plains tribes is 614 rare. Reports by travelers, captives, and soldiers do offer some data; but they are often inconsistent, conflicting, and probably incorrect. Therefore, only those reports that describe interments similar to the situation encountered at the Jared site will be used for comparison.

171 It is well known that tribes in the Plains disposed of their dead in a number of ways.

764 There is nothing in which the Plains Indian varies so much as in the respect paid to the dead, in the care and management of the body, and in greater or less elaboration of the funeral services (Dodge 1882:155).

If the people were busy when a death occurred, the following account might apply:

> The body of a chief who dies in other than the winter season is generally deposited in a cave; that of a common warrior in any convenient hole or ravine, a few handsful of earth, or sometimes only grass or leaves, being thrown over them. Women and female chil-

171 764 dren of the common people are thrust out of sight in the most convenient way ... (Dodge 1882:159).

171 114 764 While oversimplifying, Dodge recognized at least some factors that resulted in preferential burial treatment within a tribe. He unfortunately did not identify differences in customs among tribes. Consequently, he gives only little information—he does not tell us which tribes sometimes placed the bodies of their dead in ravines.

764 171 According to Dr. O. G. Given, physician to the Kiowa and Comanche Agency, burials were made at easily prepared sites in crevices and in the ground (Yarrow 1881:142). Dr. Fordyce Grinnell of the Wichita Agency gives a more detailed account:

> The body is taken due west of the lodge or village of the bereaved, and usually one of the deep washes or heads of canons in which the Comanche country abounds is selected, and the body thrown in, without special reference to position ... The saddle [from the horse used to carry the body to the grave] is also placed in the grave together with many of the personal valuables of the departed. The body is then covered over with sticks and earth, and sometimes stones are placed over the whole (Yarrow 1881:99).

657 101 The Wichita Agency, located at what is now Anadarko, Oklahoma, had jurisdiction over the Wichita, Waco, Caddo, and affiliated tribes. In 1879 the Comanche Agency was consolidated with the Wichita Agency and many of the Comanches came under its jurisdiction, although a subagency remained at Fort Sill. Thus Dr. Grinnell's observations may be of Comanches rather than Wichitas who, as far as is known, buried their dead in cemeteries (Schmitt 1952).

764 171 101 The Wichita did live in the area, however; possibly as late as 1850 there was a village one or two miles east of the Jared site (Marcy 1853:72), and they were there again for a few months after Fort Sill was founded in 1869. There is a possibility that some tribe other than the Comanche or Wichita was referred to, for in 1837 when the leader of a raiding party of "Wacos, Caddos, and Keechis" was killed during a battle, some of his followers tied a rope to the body, dragged it away, and left it in a ravine (Wilbarger 1935:193). Details of the disposition of the body are not recorded, and we do not know if the body was abandoned, buried, or simply left until it could be retrieved for burial elsewhere after the battle.

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[p. 323-B]

000 elsewhere after the battle.

101 Other tribes were in the area at the time. From the time of Fort Sill's establishment, the Comanche, Kiowa, and Kiowa-Apache were all encamped at the fort; the Arapaho and some Cheyenne were nearby and visited the area. In addition, from 1894 to 1913 a number of Apaches were kept at the post as prisoners of war. They were settled in scattered villages on the post until their release; several of these 172 villages were located near The Jared site. It is 764 unlikely that the Jared site is an Apache burial, however, since burials of the Apaches who died 171 at Fort Sill were made in cemeteries rather than in isolated places and the locations of these cemeteries are known. It is also unlikely that the burial is Kiowa-Apache for although Opler and Bittle state that rocky crevices were preferred burial sites they also point out that burials were not placed in situations where they would be subject to exposure by erosion (Opler and Bittle 1961:384).

764 In an anthropological survey of the Comanches (Wallace and Hoebel 1952:150) there is further substantiation of ravine burials: again they are simple graves in the head of a canyon, crevice, or deep wash and contain "... articles of immediate personal usage belonging to the deceased ..." (Wallace and Hoebel 1952:152).

764 In the Southern Plains only the Cheyenne vie 171 for comparison with the Comanche as regards the custom of ravine or crevice burials: bodies of some of their dead were placed "... in caves or crevices in the rocks ..." (Grinnell 1962:163). Llewellyn and Hoebel likewise record crevice burials for the Cheyenne (1941:213).

[124] Several Kiowas and Comanches were asked about burials like the Jared site; there was total agreement among all that the Kiowa would not place a body in a ravine or crevice but would bury only in an open area. Both the Kiowas and the Comanches were aware of Comanche burials similar to the Jared site. Dodge, then, apparently was describing a practice with very limited distribution; only the Comanche and Cheyenne are known to have made ravine burials.

172 *Dating:* Since the artifacts from the Jared site have not been satisfactorily dated, I will comment on the history of the area, pointing to factors that may more narrowly delimit the date of interment.

648 The Comanches had long been in frequent 175 contact with American, French, and Mexican traders, explorers, and military expeditions be-

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fore Fort Sill was founded in 1869. In fact Catlin, along with Dodge and a regiment of U. S. Dragoons, visited one of their large camps just a few miles from the Jared site in 1834 (Catlin 1841:61ff.). From these explorers and others who passed through their territory, and from their own trading and raiding expeditions, the Comanches received articles of white manufacture.

Fort Sill was established as a base of operations for subduing the Southern Plains Indians, and the U. S. Army made efforts to induce the Indians to settle permanently near the post. This program was achieved in part by giving food, clothing, and supplies to the Indians. By 1875 the Comanches were settled in the area and roamed no more except for a few small raids that continued until 1878.

The first Comanche cemetery was not established until 1889 or 1890 at Fort Sill (Gillett Griswold, personal communication), and with the exception of the post's cemetery where a few Indian Scouts were buried, and several mission cemeteries, this was the first established Comanche burial ground. Other Comanche cemeteries were opened shortly thereafter, and most burials were made in cemeteries after the early 1890's.

The literary and historic records help substantiate the identification of the Jared site as a Comanche burial probably dating after 1869 and before 1890 with the vague possibility of its being a Cheyenne burial. Kiowa and Comanche informants support this conclusion. No other groups in the area have been reported to have buried their dead in the manner noted at the Jared site.

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